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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5184th meeting of the Security Council, held on 23 May 2005, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council took note with satisfaction of the declaration signed on 15 May 2005 in Dar es Salaam by the President of Burundi, Mr. Domitien Ndayizeye, and by the leader of the rebel group of Palipehutu-FNL, Mr. Agathon Rwasa. The Council took note in particular of the commitment by both parties to immediately cease hostilities, agree within a month on a permanent ceasefire, and negotiate without disturbing the electoral process.

"The Security Council shares the understanding that this declaration is a first step that should allow FNL to be rapidly integrated, in a negotiated manner, into the transitional process currently in progress in Burundi. The Council remains convinced that FNL's participation in this process will facilitate the holding of the forthcoming elections, in accordance with the timetable confirmed at the last meeting of Member States of the Regional Initiative for Peace in Burundi, on 22 April 2005 in Entebbe.

"The Security Council commends the mediation of President Benjamin Mkapa and of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and, more generally, the efforts of States of the Regional Initiative chaired by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and of the Facilitation led by South African Deputy President Jacob Zuma, as well as those made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to bring the peace and national reconciliation process in Burundi to a successful conclusion. The Council reiterates that bringing an end to the climate of impunity in Burundi and the Great Lakes region is essential to that process.

"The Security Council urges all Burundian parties to exert greater efforts to ensure success of the Transition, national reconciliation and stability of the country in the longer term."

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